Front have been declared as unlawful by the Central Government under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The State Government of Assam have prepared an 'Action Plan' for dealing with the activities of United Liberation Front of Assam. The Central Government have provided Central Forces to the State Governments.

(b) The details of incidents of insurgency during the last 3 months (from February to April, 1990) in the States affected by the activities of extremists are given below:

Name of the State	No. of Incidents	Persons Killed
Assam	27	16
Nagaland	7	2
Manipur	8	1

Arrest of Anand Margis in Punjab

914. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleaed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two Anand Marg activists have been arrested in Punjab; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Suresh Kumar, resident of Anand Nagar, District Purulia, West Bengal and Ravinder Singh Yadav, resident of Gazipur, Uttar Pradesh were apprehended by BSF authorities on 14th April, 1990 in district Amritsar, Punjab while they were carrying a suitcase. The suitcase contained unauthorised fire arms. The two individuals alongwith the seized weapons were handed over to the police. A criminal case has been registered.

Telephone charges in India

915. SHRI MENDAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the constantly rising telephone charges in India are contrary to what is happening overseas;

(b) what are the reasons for the high costs of telephones and their use;

(c) whether the new technology has not been properly utilised to make calls cheaper;

(d) what steps are likely to be taken to provide better concessions during non-peak hours for the use of phones; and

(e) whether the public is being victimised by this monopoly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The telephone charges depend on a number of factors, such as cost of equipment, cost of power and operative and maintenance costs including the cost of input materials and staff expenses.

It may also be mentioned that the charges for telephones in India are lower than those in many countries.

(b) The major portion of telephone network is analogue. Large number of electro-mechanical exchanges are in service. These exchanges require larger maintenance effort both in terms of manpower and interms of spares.

Though the number of telephones which was less than 80,000 at the time

of independence has now increased to nearly 48 lakhs and the Department proposes to provide an additional 52 lakhs new telephone connections during the 8th Plan, the number of telephones per 100 population is still less than two.

(c) New technology namely electronic exchanges are being installed and full use is made of these exchanges. However, the capacity of the ITI, Mankapur is only 5 lakhs lines per year.

The benefit of new technology can be fully realised only when a major portion of the network is digitalised. Every effort is being made to expand the digital network as fast as possible subject to the constraints regarding equipment and funds.

(d) 50 per cent concession is available to subscriber dialled calls between 19 and 22 hours and 6 to 8 hours. The charges are still lower for S.T.D. calls made between 22 hours and 6 hours when only 25 per cent of normal charge is levied.

(e) The charges for various telephone services have been kept as low as possible. Any increase has generally been to neutralise the increase in cost of providing the service and for generating adequate surplus to expand and modernise the network.

"RLU" Systems in Telephone Exchanges in Calcutta

916. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Calcutta Telephones have set up "RLU" systems in various exchanges in Calcutta;

(b) whether some of the old exchanges *viz.* '45' and '46' have completely failed to provide service to the subscribers;

(c) whether more than 50 per cent telephone lines of these exchanges remain out of service;

(d) whether complaints of the subcribers are not being properly attended; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and further action to be taken to immediately install "RLU" systems in these exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, the exchanges have outlived their rated lives and plans have been prepared to replace these exchanges by electronic Remote Line Units.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. All efforts are made to quickly restore the lines to ensure redressal of complaints.

(e) Does not arise.

Fire Protection Measures in the Office Buildings of Posts and Telecommunications Department in the Country

917 PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the buildings and multistoried office premises of the departments of Posts and Telecommunications Department in the country do not have adequate fire protection measures to prevent fire accidents;

(b) whether the Departments own civil wing has not yet developed its own measures of safety and/or to work and observe the prescribed fire safety rules;

(c) whether none of the premises has fire protection doors;